Could Anything be More Stupid !

Total for the week ..

The financial events of the past few days have, for the hundredth time, demonstrated the stupidity and ignorance of numbers of men whom Providence, for inscrutable reasons, has put in control of great sums

of monoy.

First, the Presidents of various national banks, either for the purpose of saving a little money by selling their Government bonds, or for that of terrifying Congress from passing a funding bill which they disliked, have started a monetary panic which threatens the whole business community. They have surely failed of one of these objects, for they have destroyed the market for their property, and they are more than likely to fall of the other. If they had possessed sagacity commensurate with their pecuniary means they might have foreseen what has taken place, and if they had been ordinarily wise, they would have refrained from thus provoking a hostility which will do them an injury not to be compensated by any possible advantage they might have gained. Whatever was the state of public opinion before, it is tolerably certain, now, that on the question of substituting greenbacks for national bank circulation a great political issue will be made, with the chances against the banks. For the sake, therefore, of a trifling temporary benefit, the bank officers have risked their profits on circulation for years to come. Could anything be more stupid?

Then, again, it turns out that some, if not many, of the bank Presidents who have been concerned in the transactions we speak of have proceeded under an entire misapprehension of the real scope and effect of the Funding bill. Our Washington correspondent narrated yesterday how three of them went on to that city for the purpose of surrendering their circulation, and only after they got there learned that the bill does not require, as they supposed it did, the substitution of the new three per cent. bonds for the four per cent. bonds already deposited as security for their notes! They also had an idea that if the bill became a law no national bank could get back its bonds till its last circulating note had been presented for redemption, whereas, in fact, sections 5,222 and 5,224 of the statutes under which they have been doing business for years, and which are not touched by the Funding bill, provide that within six months from the date of a vote to go into liquidation a bank may deposit with the Treasurer of the United States lawful money sufficient to redeem its outstanding circulation, and thereupon its bonds shall be returned to it.

Equally surprising is the ignorance which, during the present emergency, has been displayed by moneyed men concerning the duties and powers of the Secretary of the Treasury. Some of them have blamed the Secretary because he did not allow the lawful money paid in by the banks to liberate their bonds to be deposited in other banks, apparently having never read the act of 1874, which expressly requires such money to be deposited with the Treasurer of the United States. One man, we believe, actually telegraphed to the Secretary urg-

ing him to violate the law in this respect! Generally, the behavior of the owners and holders of stocks on a day like last Friday presents them in a pitiable light. Retired merchants, and some who have not retired. were shown to have bought stocks which they had not paid for, and which they were forced to sell at a heavy loss because somother men chose to sell similar stocks below a certain figure. There is a popular impression that stock gamblers are mostly young men, to whom years have not yet the Irish titles. About the same time KOHL, brought wisdom. It is not correct. The groups which surround the indicators in the thousand and more brokers' offices in and | in Ireland. He pointed out that a Russian about Wall street are composed of old fellows, many of whom have already money enough to live on, and who operate in stocks either because they like the sport or because they want a little more money. If they would only buy nothing that they cannot pay for, they would do well enough, perhaps, but they all want to buy five or ten times as much as their means allow, and borrow the rest. Consequently, when the market goes up it goes up very, very high, and when it goes down, as is did on Friday, it goes down very, very low, and the old sinners get well punished.

What Foreigners Say About Ireland.

According to a telegram, GAMBETTA'S organ, the République Française, savs that the Irish agitation can expect no sympathy from liberal and democratic opinion on the Continent, because it masks a prearranged separatist movement. It is, of course, no secret that the Irish reformers have merely postponed their demand for home rule until the more urgent land problem has been solved. It does not follow that the very men who, like the English Padicals, are resolutely opposed to a repeal of the act of union, do not heartily favor a reconstruction of the existing tenant laws. The French journal must find a better pretext for its ungenerous attitude, which is strangely at variance with the judgments pronounced by those among its countrymen. who have made a careful study of the Irish question at first hand. Indeed, the strongest proof that Irish tenants are justified in their clamors for relief is furnished by im-

partial French or German observers.

A good deal of such disinterested evidence,

which, for some persons, may have more weight than anything emanating from Irish or English sources, was compiled for a late number of the Contemporary Review. The testimony is all pertinent, because, owing to the virtual failure of the BRIGHT clauses in the land act, and to the obstacles which the gregationalism. And if what Mr. SLICKE nominal extension of the Ulster custom over the whole of Ireland met with in practice, what was true of the country twenty or forty years ago is substantially true to-Especially striking is the verdict of the French economist, M. DE BEAUMONT, who visited Ireland in 1835 and 1837 to verify for himself the facts related by a Parliamentary commission, but which to him appeared incredible. Having inspected the country with his own eyes, he wrote: " I have seen the Indian in his forests and the negro in his chains, and I thought that I behold the lowest term of human misery; but I did not then know the lot of the Irish peasant." He went on to predict the futility of emigra- I am young, strong, and healthy. I can tion, considered as a remedy, showing that the increased facility of living, resulting from a decrease of population, would simply

1862 he published a seventh edition of his book, in which he described the calamitous verification of his prophecy, pointing out that, after millions of people had gone into exile, the lot of the remainder was no better than before. How this deplorable state of things could be cured, DE BEAUMONT thought, was plain enough. He advocated the small freehold system on the ground of its social and political benefits, irrespective of the question of relative productiveness, and maintained that just as the poorer classes of France in becoming proprietors had passed from a tolerable situation to a better one, so those of Ireland, if assisted to become owners of their small holdings, would cross at once all the space that separates a happy lot from

the most miserable condition.

SISMONDI'S opinion is of peculiar interest, because an attempt was made in the House of Commons to embody it in legislation. SISMONDI did not hesitate to say that, in the interest of the Irish tenant, whose situation he pronounced infinitely worse than was that of Continental laborers in the worst times of feudalism, the law would be justified in interfering on behalf of the feeblest party in a contract based on unequal conditions. He proposed that the landlords should be compelled to suffer the State to reclaim their waste lands, which thereupon should be leased in perpetuity to their tenants against a quit rent much lower than the rate the vendors would have asked. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in 1847, actually advocated this scheme, which, however, like other plans calculated to permanently improve the condition of Ireland, was ultimately abandoned. It should be noted that JOHN STUART MILL agreed with SISMONDI as to the necessity of limiting the rents of Irish cottier tenants. "Rent," he said. "paid by a capitalist who farms for profit and not for bread, may safely be left to competition; but rent paid by laborers cannot."

In 1860 the Abbé PERRAUD, since then Bishop of Autun, personally visited the cabins of tenants in several Irish counties, and was astonished to find things not a whit better than when DE BEAUMONT had exposed the pitiable state of Ireland. After living long in a department accounted one of the poorest and most backward in France, PERRAUD affirmed that the lot of the poorest peasant in France could not compare with the misery endured by a large part of the Irish population. Fervent Catholic though he was, the abbé put the land grievance before that from which his Church at that time suffered. "While the relation between landlord and tenant is unreformed," wrote another Frenchman, M. DE LASTEYRIE, in 1853, "the question will always be the same, before and after the poor law, before and after the famine, before and after the emigration." No reform, said Pichor, after a personal investigation, is ever likely to satisfy Ireland, unless, as a first step, the condition of property is regulated. And Count CAVOUR distinctly rec ognized, as a chief vice of the Irish social system, the unhappy situation of the agricultural laborers, which he charged to faulty distribution of property. To the same effect are the conclusions at

which the German economists and travellers cited by the Contemporary arrived after a sojourn in Ireland. Prof. Von RAUMER made two journeys through the country. and declared that the days he spent there were the saddest of his life. No words, he said, could portray the frightful misery that everywhere met the eye. Remarking that, in the midst of an abundance which permitted large amounts of grain to be exported to England, the men who tilled the soil were perishing from hunger, he put his finger on the true source of the evil. He averred that the laws and practices relating to land were the chief cause of the suffering he witnessed, and he urged, among other measures, a complete abolition of tenants at will, and their conversion into peasant proprietors. He argued that if Prussia and other German States had, during the present century, forced landlords to give up privileges that were injurious to the comty, and to accent a moderate inden nity, much more would the Irish Government be justified in doing so in view of the taint or uncertainty attaching to most of the well-known German traveller, wrote in terms not less strong of what he had beheld peasant, although a slave, was, nevertheless, lodged and fed to his contentment; that the Hungarian laborers were, in some respects, hardly used, yet that the humblest had good wheat bread and wine; that in Servia and Bosnia the poorer people, while badly housed, were well clad; that the Letts of Livonia were pitied for living in huts built of unhewn logs; but he declared that, having seen the west of Ireland, he regarded the Letts. Russians, Hungarians, and Servians as living in a state of comparative comfort. Nowhere else, he said, but in Ireland could be found human creatures subsisting, from one year's end to another, on the same root, berry, or weed. Kohl agreed with Von RAUMER that the reforms required were such as should help tenants at will and leaseholders generally to convert their

tenures into freeholds. Such have been the sympathies excited in foreign travellers, and the conclusions forced on men who went to Ireland with no social preconceptions or political bias, such as, the Contemporary suggests, might lead us to mistrust an English Conservative, who can see no evil at all there, or an Irish reformer, who can see nothing but evil.

Who Are They ?

Another Congregational minister has abandoned evangelical orthodoxy; and in this latest case the heretic is a man who has tried successively the Methodist and Mr. SLICER of Brooklyn announces that, in his opinion, the old theology is breaking down and giving away, and that he cannot conscientiously preach its dogmas any

He is only one among many ministers who have of late years thrown off their orthodox allegiance, and the majority of them have been, like him, expounders of the old Puritan faith as expressed in Concharges is true, the only reason why the number is not far greater is that his clerical brethren are afraid to declare their real opinious. Among themselves, he says, they agree with him in thinking that the life has gone out of the orthodoxy they profess and assume to preach; but they dare not make the admission in public. They therefore content themselves with avoiding any discussion of the old dogmas in their sermons, and carefully abstain from givinglexpression in the pulpit to their honest opinions of them, lest they shock their congreterm of human gations and so imperil their livelihood. They have their livings to earn and their families to support," says Mr. SLICER, " but | exhibition." "I am in favor of it," reearn my living, and I cannot conceal my conscientious convictions."

That is a serious charge to make against

preach what they do not believe because their bread and butter depend on such hyhis bread and butter, and would rather be

true to his convictions than well fed. What else does what the Rev. Mr. SLICER said mean? And in so speaking he has undertaken both to proclaim aloud his own there are only two broad areas of flat courage and honesty and to stigmatize his late orthodox ministerial associates as cowards, hypocrites, and frauds. According to him, their opinions are for sale in the ecclesiastical market, while his own he will hold above price.

Substantially what Mr. SLICER says regarding the prevalence of skepticism among the evangelical clergy has been frequently asserted of late. The Rev. EDWARD E. HALE, a Unitarian minister, provoked much criticism a few months ago by questioning the sincerity of a large part of them, and nearly all the Congregational ministers who have rebelled against the old Calvinistic dogmas have told us, either directly or by implication, that the only difference between themselves and very many of their clerical brethren was that they had the courage to express their honest opinions, while the others were afraid to be true to their convictions.

It is time for these accusations to be met. if they can be met, for they tend to destroy respect for clerical opinions and to degrade and render contemptible the clorgy. They are made, too, at a period when the evangelical denominations, so called, are falling behind instead of going ahead, and when a sincere and earnest pulpit is required as never before, if the old theology is not to be swamped by infidelity.

Who are these clerical hypocrites? Where are those men who preach a theology they reject in their hearts? We read of Rice Christians in China-converts to the faith who are bought and kept by regular rations and-butter ministers, who are kept up to the orthodox standard only by filling their

The list of evangelical preachers in New York and Brooklyn can easily be obtained. Let the Rev. Mr. SLICER or anybody else go over it and show us, if he can, who are the ministers who are selling their religiou opinions for a living.

A Warning to Insured Persons.

A case of considerable importance to per sons who are insured by accident insurance companies is reported in the latest volume of the Supreme Court Reports of this State, just published.

The Hartford Accident Insurance Com pany insured the life of a physician and surgeon in the sum of two thousand dollars, payable to his wife. The policy provided for the payment of that amount to her after proof of her husband's death in consequence of "bodily injuries effected through external, violent, and accidental means within the intent and meaning of this contract." There was a further proviso that the insurance should not extend to any bodily injury of which there should be no external and visible sign, nor to any death caused by the taking of poison.

The insured doctor accidentally killed himself by taking potson which he mistook for pure drinking water. He had no intention of committing suicide, and did not know that there was poison in the glass from which he drank.

In an action to recover the insurance money the company defended successfully on the ground, first, that the injury which occasioned death was not effected through external and violent means: and second. that the death of the insured was caused by the taking of poison, and was therefore ex-

cepted from the operation of the policy. This defence was held to be sufficient by majority of the Judges of the General Term of the Supreme Court in the Third Judicial Department. But Mr. Justice FOLLETT dissented from the prevailing opinion, and expressed a strong conviction that it was the true intention of the parties to provide compensation in case of death from just such an accident as occurred to the deceased.

That the death was accidental was beyond doubt. But to bring it within the terms of the contract it must have been effected by means which were not only accidental but also external and violent.

Mr. Justice Follerr says that the mistake and the act of drinking were external. Without the operation of these external means death would not have been effected. It is true that part of the cause of death was internal, but that should not suffice to relieve the defendant corporation from liability.

He also holds that the means of death were clearly violent. The trial court expressly found that the poison occasioned cramps, spasms, rigidity of the muscles, and blackening of the face before death.

The same learned Judge rejects the strict construction which his brethren put upon the proviso that the policy shall not extend to cases of death "caused by the taking of poison." He thinks this means the intentional taking of poison, and that such was the understanding of the insurers and the insured.

There is much force in the views thus presented by Mr. Justice Follett. They have satisfied us that a wisely managed insurance company would not interpose a defence under such circumstances as were disclosed in the case under consideration.

World's Fair or No World's Fair.

So GRANT has reached the conclusion that the scheme for a World's Fair in New York in 1883 is likely to fail unless the Central Park is given up to it for a site. That is about the meaning of what he said at the meeting of the Fair Committee on Wednes-Congregationalist varieties of it. The Rev. | day. He finds that there is no interest in the fair among the people of the city. "The enthusiasm about the fair is greater in

Europe than in New York," said GRANT. It was expected that GRANT's name as President of the fair would help the undertaking along. Great efforts have been made to drum up subscriptions since his election, but, though money is abundant, only a paltry sum has been pledged. GRANT argues that the investment is a first-class one; that subscribers can hardly fail to get their money back with a handsome bonus; and yet all the canvassers for subscriptions can report is that they receive "encouragement and promises, and occasionally money." But GRANT attributes the prevailing indifference to the fair to dislike of the Inwood sits selected. He would therefore start anew the question of occupying Central Park for the purposes of the show. "It strikes me now," he said on Wednesday, "that some movement is necessary to interest this city in the enterprise. Just what it is best to do, I am at a loss to recommend; but it is worth while to make another effort toward securing Central Park for the sponded Mr. SULLIVAN. "There is some intimation that the public voice will be expressed more decidedly than before."

Yes, indeed, Mr. SULLIVAN, it will be exenable the landlord to ask higher rents. In | the preachers who occupy our evangelical | pressed far more decidedly than before | a while and see.

pulpits, as they are called. They pretend to when you and GRANT renew the effort to destroy our only great pleasure ground for your big show. It will be expressed so pocrisy and evasion; but he is not afraid of | decidedly that you will find that, whatever else they may be indifferent about, the people of New York have a very lively

interest in their Park. Within the limits of the Central Park ground. In the lower part there is the Green, as it is called, and in the upper are the Meadows, each of them containing only about twenty acres. The rest of the Park is irregular ground, which furnishes picturesque and attractive landscape, with its rocks and foliage; but the forty acres of open plain are e-sential to its beauty, and without them the true park characteristics would be lacking. They are, indeed, the keynote of the whole plan, and the rest of the eight hundred acres is arranged with reference to them. Injure or deface the Green and the Meadows, and the whole Park

is marred irretrievably. It was very different with Fairmount Park at Philadelphia. That is two or three times larger than our Park, in the first place, and, moreover, it contains ten times as much flat land. What was taken for the Philadelphia fair was not missed. In Central Park itself, therefore, there is no room for the fair; and even the projects for occupying adjacent land and putting only a portion of the buildings in the Park call for a use of space which cannot be spared. Not a tenth of the area of the Park will be required, says Mr. SULLIVAN; but there is no tenth, and there is no other fraction, which can be given up. Central Park is too small as it is.

If, therefore, we can have no World's Fair unless we put it in Central Park, then we shall get along without a World's Fair. GRANT and his associates may as well make up their minds to that. Rather than press their proposition on the Park Commissioners, let them at once resign. They of rice. Have we here in New York bread- cannot have Central Park, World's Fair or no World's Fair.

> The River and Harbor bill in the Senate and the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill in the House took up the time of Congress yesterday. The House voted \$200,000 for coaling stations on the Isthmus of Panams.

The indignation of our neighbor, the Staats Zeilung, is aroused by an assault that the Daheim, a periodical of Germany, makes upon the German residents of the United States. The Germans who settle here, says the Daheim, are seen lost to "Germandom." They retain no patriotic interest in the land of their birth; they till the fields of a foreign nation, help to freehen the blood of the "Yankee people," and are absorbed and dissolved in "Americandom." But this is not all. They do not even long remain consumers of the industrial products of Gercany. Nay, more, they soon begin to compete with German producers, and the manufactures of German hands, turned out in the United States, are wanting to-day in no household of Germany. Therefore, says the Daheim, those who consider the emigration question from a patriotic standpoint exclaim: "Cut loose from North America!"

The Staats Zeitung expresses the opinion that if German emigrants could be kept in dependence, as England wanted to hold the American colonies before the Revolution, and could be made to pay taxes to feed enormous Prussian armies and to purchase Krupp guns, they would be considered very satisfactory offspring of the Fatherland; but it seems happy to be able to say that the Germans of the United States are not that kind of material. "They have learned to value liberty higher than lackeys' liveries, and pay homage to no man not even a Prussian privy councillor, except for personal merit."

The criticisms of the Daheim represent the sentiments of men who are fond of calling themselves patriots, but who are simply in perialists and followers of BISMARCK, and make capital by assailing their fellow countrymen in other lands. So far as they accuse the Germans of the United States of making good American citizens-which is shout all that the Deheim's tirade amounts to—they are undoubtedly correct; and there will not be many who will care to repel the charge.

A notorious forger announces through the Herald that he is to be a member of GARFIELD's party in the trip from Mentor to Washington. Let Garrield look out for a bogus proclamation from his train.

WHAT FOLGER IS TO ACHIEVE.

ALBANY, Feb. 26 .- We ought to be able to obtain pretty correct information here as to Judge Folger's purposes in regard to Gen. Garfield's Cabinet. But there is some mystery, and a good deal of reticence among those who might be supposed to have at least a little knowledge on the subject. Whether he is to be Secretary of the Treasury or Attorney-General, or whether he is to enter the Cabinet at all. eems to be still in doubt. One thing, however, appears to be settled. If he takes a position, it is with the distinct understanding and upon the express condition that he is to reconcile the Blaine and Conkling elements in the Cabinet. and is to harmonize the Republican factions in New York. In a word, great results are to come out of it, and everybody is to be satisfied. His appearance on the scene, either with the Treasury seals in his hands or the Attorney's robes dangling at his heels, is to be followed by concord in the councils of Garfield, and in the corridors of the New York Custom House, and in the ranks of the party all through this State.

Of course, it is only creakers and grumblers who doubt that Judge Folger can accomplish so much. But earnest seekers after the fat things in the Federal larder believe that we are on the eve of haleyon days.

The inauguration of such a reign of good will under Judge Folger would be more interesting even than the inauguration of President Garfield himself. The ceremenies would be touching in the extreme, especially to certain classes of Republicans, who have memories only of moderate tenacity and length. It would be tender to see Blaine embrace Conkling, and assure him that he meant no offence by the allusion in the House to the turkey-cock strut and the mud and marble. After Fenton was conducted to a sofa in the Senate as a privileged spectator, Conkling could rise in his place and declare that he was entirely mistaken when he said, in the debate on Tom Murphy's confirmation as Collector, that Fenton crawled into the Senate Chamber as the worm in the fable crawled into the nest of the eagle. Conkling and George A. Forster might fall upon each other's necks, and Conkling and John Sherman could agree to recognize each other on Pennsylvania avenue, if they happened to feel like it. Arthur and Cornell might at least say that it was all made up between them; and as to Levi P. Morton, he would unquestionably be able to declare upon oath that on some rare secasions in the stock market he had been worse sold by brokers than he was in the Senatorial caucus at Albany, and in the Menter conference when he was talked about for Secretary of the Treasury. But the crowning glory of Folger's work would beam on the next Republican State Convention-say at Rochesterwhere Conkling could greet George William Curtis as a man and a brother, and not as a man milliner, the whole Convention (almost) rising as of yore, and chooring vehemently. Coming down to smaller matters. Mr. Skinner of the Assembly would get a clerk for his Railroad Committee, Speaker Sharpe might try to be gentle, and arrangements could be entered upon whereby Mr. Cornell would not be beaten by more than 40,000 majority if he runs for Governor next year. He who thinks that all this is not within the

scope of Judge Folger's powers, let him wait

WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

burglaries which have attracted unusual attention from the fact that the burglars were armed with six-shooters and had no hesitation in using them on their pursuers. In London the scene of the onshught was in Cromwell Road, South Kensington, one of the most fashionable portions of the metropolis. The hour chosen-dinner time-showed great discretion on the part of the thieves, for then the upper part of the house is usually free from the presence of its inmates. Four houses were broken into in a very short space of time, and there is no knowing how many more would have been attacked had not the cook of the last house entered met one of the "enterprising burglars" on the stairs. With many apologies, he explained that his purpose was only to visit the housemaid, but he evinced such a desire to depart quickly by the front door that the cook gave the alarm. Thereupon he drew his revolver and fired at her, but without effect. Undaunted by this attack, she pursued him, and was joined in the chase by a policeman and a postman. The robber wounded both of them and made his escape. In Edinburgh the scene of the fracas was on the road between that city and Leith. A commercial traveller was attacked by two men, but he safely reached his house. He invoked the aid of his father and sister, and the party started on the warpath; they were all wounded in the encounter. Two hours later other robberies were committed. About midnight two men were discovered acting suspiclously in the vicinity of the Custom House. Four policemen who were on the lookout attempted to arrest them, when they fired and wounded three of the guardians of the peace; but the most extraordinary part of the affair was that they then placed the muzzles of their revolvers to their own heads and pulled the triggers. The pistol belonging to one of the men refused to go off, but his companion sucseeded in blowing out his own brains. The survivor was arrested, and he and his dead ompanion were recognized as the men who had wounded the commercial traveller and family in the early part of the evening. In view of the desperate character of the Eng-

ish ruffian of the period and of the accuracy of his aim, the public are asking the question why the police should not be allowed to carry firearms. The means of offence or defence which they are permitted at present is a short staff, which is carried in the coat-tail pocket. The detectives, or plain clothes men, as they are called, are not even allowed this absurd weapon. The London criminal cannot be said to be well informed about the armament of his natural enemy, for recently a thief, after being lodged in jail, said to his captor: "If I had known that you had nothing but your fists. I would have ripped you up with a knife." One can hardly imagine such verdancy in a New York desperado, Oddly enough, opposition to supplying the constabulary with revolvers comes not from the thieves but from the police themselves. The Chief of Police and the heads of the force are unanimously against arming the men. The objection seems to be grounded on false pride. One of the most experienced detectives says: "I am inclined to compare myself with the English gentleman at a foreign court who, being without a ribbon or decoration of any kind, was considered bien distingué. Often I have been the only man without a revolver in a mob of rowdies, and have felt in consequence well armed." Another member of the force says: " If I am driven to use my staff I can hit hard, soft, or middling, just as I think requisite, you know. But if I let fly a bullet what control have I over it after it is out of the barrel? It may hit him in the arm or it may hit him in the lungs, or it may hurt somebody else." Another well-known detective says: On the whole, I think it better that we should sometimes be at a disadvantage than that we should be looked at with distrust by the whole public, as we should be if we were armed much

more than we are." The all-night sittings of the House of Com mons were not such very dronial affairs after all for some of the spectators. Ladies were present in the box of the Sergeant-at-Arms. Cheerful supper parties, brightened by the presence of the fair, were held in the new restaurant in the basement, the same crypt in which search is made every session for phantom of Guy Fawkes. And at midnight adjournment was had to the cafe for grilled bones and the new beverage, which is called Home Rule. This is the recipe: Beat up well two raw eggs, mix with a large glass of hot milk, and was upon such substantial stimulation that Mr. Biggar accomplished his great feat of defying all England, including the Speaker.

eeking far and near for a place of refuge. The report comes that several French orders have fixed upon the Channel Islands whereon to pitch their tents. The little is leaf Herm, on the south coast of Great Britain, is thought to be a suitable place in some respects. There calms are unknown, and the fretful waters sob on the lonely shore till with the growing storms the seas arise, foam over the rocks, and thunder to the skies. There is, however, one great objection. On one side is a grand beach, upon which the most beautiful shells are continually tossed. This, in the summer, brings excursion parties, who wander over the sands and the adjacent headlands. The island of Jethou is, in some respects, better suited to a Trappist monastery, but the possibilities for agriculture are slim in the extreme. The almost inaccessible island of Brechou offers some advantages, as it contains much arable land. Then there are the rocks of Douvres but they, if not French, are supposed to be so,

Driven from France, the Jesuits have been

The final settlement of the different orders will probably not be fixed upon until the topography of the various archipelagoes has been oroughly examined Few sittings of the French Chamber of Depuies have been watched with so much interest,

so much intense anxiety, as that set down for the reading of the long-deferred divorce bill of M. Alfred Naguet, and each Deputy as he ar rived was literally besieged by women of all asses desiring entrance tickets. In order to fully understand the importance of the bill in roduced by M. Naguet, it must be remembered that since the religious reaction of 1816 divorce has been effaced from the code civile, and an old law recetablished allowing only separation de corps. Ineffectual attempts were made in 1831 and 1832 to repeal this law, but up to the present time the French law has not countenanced divorce. Round after round of applause greeted the introduction of the bill at the recent sitting The majority of the Chamber demanded its immediate discussion, and their demands were acceded to, to the great satisfaction of the galleries. M. Léon Renault opened the debate on behalf of the committee that had had the bill under consideration. In a masterly address he explained the purport of the and gave his reasons for so strennously supporting it. He inslated that the ommittee were not in favor of reestablishing the lax and free divorce law of the Revolution, but the revised and restricted statute of 1803 with still further limitations. The present law, established under the direction and through the influence of the clergy, had worked great injustice. Where either party to a marriage contract had been convicted of embezziement or theft, or had been subjected to decrading pun isliment, the terms of the present bill allowed a second marriage to the unoff-neling pariner. So, too, the unaccountable absence of a husband for a term of five years was sufficient cause for a divorce, and the provisions of the bill under consideration would allow it. No divorce would be allowed, however, for any cause where the wife was over 45 years, or where marital relations had existed for over twenty years. Where the parties to a marriage contract desire a divorce the bill provides that the terms shall be considered and finally agreed upon by a council composed of the relatives of both, and that in all cases the children, if there be any, shall be awarded one-half the fortune possessed by the parents. One of the strongest points made in the special plea of M.

Renault was in regard to injustice done to the hildren of the working classes, by the existing law. At present, in a case of separation de corps, The capitals of England and Scotland neither parent may romarry, even though such have recently been onlivened by a series of a partnership would insure the permanent support of his or her offspring by a former marriage. A legal alliance between a divorced per-

son and another occupying the position of corespondent was strictly prohibited by the terms of the present bill as in the old law. As M. Renault sat down, M. Legrand endeavored to introduce a counter-project, but was opposed by M. Naguet himself, who spoke in measured terms in favor of his bill. He insisted that a proper divorce law would prove a safety valve to the marriage relation, and that the abolition of the Divorce law by the Restoration was a trespass of elericalism on society. Poor Offenbach intended that his last work

should be his best. Like the swan, he hoped his death song would be his sweetest. All Paris, therefore, gathered at the Opera Comique when the "Contes d'Hoffman" was produced, to receive, so to speak, the last musical will and testament of Maestro Jacques. So long ago as May 18, 1879, several selections from the score were performed at Offenbach's residence in the Boulevard des Capucines, and the consensus of critical opinion accepted it as his most important and valuable composition. He spent unusual labor on its construction, and bestowed upon every detail a finish which was almost microscopic. In consequence it has been produced without a note of alteration. The scenario is built up act by act from a fantastic drama of the same title, which was first performed at the Odéon about thirty years ago. The plot is of the most fantastic and original kind, and the music is superior to anything that Offenbach ever wrote before. Its reception was an enthusiastic demonstration of the affection Paris has always felt for its pet composer.

M. Eugene Nus, who used to collaborate a great deal with Adolphe Belot, has taken to himself a new copartner, M. Charles de Courcy. They have just launched a new joint comedy in three acts, "Mme, de Navaret" by title, at the Vaudeville. It is an agreeable offset to the hideous realism of Zola, and the Paris press hails it as one welcomes a breath of fresh air in an atmosphere of fever. "Mme. de Navaret" is not a work of the loftiest aim, but it is entertaining, pleasant to listen to, and conducts the beholder calmly and tranquilly to a wholesome and ingenious conclusion. Sardou's "Pattes de Mouche," cleverly adapted as "A Scrap of Paper," is a type of the school to which it be-

In vivid and repulsive contrast to" Madame de Navaret" is Busnach's awful"Zoe Chien-Chien." It was fair to suppose that Zola had gone to the lowest depths of society as a dramatic seavenger. But the new play makes "Nana" aimost respectable by comparison. Reduced to elementary simplicity, it puts on the stage sights and characters which decent people cautiously avoid when out-of-doors. It is simply a chapter of the records of the police of morals cut up into sections, and rehearsed by actors instead of being read by a husky clerk. It traces the rise and fall of a lorette with a hideous fidelity to nature which must make Zola green with envy. Its scenes are laid principally in prisons and penitentiaries, and its characters are almost all of them of the most vicious and degraded type. The heroine is a prostitute, whose brother strays, unreasonably, in the direction of respectability. He is about to marry rich and well-born girl. The discovery that Zoe Chien-Chien, the famous cocotle, is his sister must ruin him, and breaks off the match. So Zoe Chien-Chien magnanimously polsons herself and dies respectfully regretted by a large circle of "protectors" and a weeping audience. This story, carefully trailed through the slums of Paris to pick up all the dirt possible, is, curiously enough, received with less disfavor than "Nana," In fact, shrewd observers begin to believe that if it were not for the inartistic small-pox finale of "Nana" even that loathsome transcription of life in the stews would be accepted with complacency.

The methetic "Mania"-imbecility it ought to called—is the butt of Mr. Burnand's derision in his new comedy, "The Colonel," now play-ing at the Prince of Wales's Theatre. It is immensely enjoyed in London as a elever shot at one of the most annoying and disgusting fantasies that ever deranged the "silly class" of society. The comedy, however, is only an old friend in a new dress, being nothing more or less than "The Serious Family" done over The rollicking Captam Murphy Maguire becomes Colonel W. W. Wood, U. S. A., and Aminadab Sleek is converted into one Streyke, a tonishment, when the time for election came, another man was quietly elected to fill his place. He at once renand has reconstructed the familiar play, it is nand has reconstructed the familiar play, it is than temporarily displace the good old original comedy. The scope of the latter was much more extended, and for one spectator who appreciates the humor of Mr. Burnand's skit at Æsthesia there will always be ten thousand to roar at the discomfiture of Aminadab Sleek. It gives "The Colonel" an additional interest to New York that the young American officer is played by Mr. Charles Coghlan. N. L. T.

UNDERGROUND TELEGRAPH WIRES, Two Systems Already in Use. One of Which is to be Widely Extended.

The plan of putting wires under grown anies been a matter of discussion with the telegraph companies to months past. The wonderful increase of telephone danger that enough of them will be present to manage that enough of them will be present to manage that enough of them will be present to manage that enough of the making to such an extent as to student the problem more pressing of solution. The plan of putting wires under ground has efore the telephone was introduced the telegraph had a lear field and met with little opposition. Now the telehone wires are everywhere, on every roof and every three minutes each, it will be understood that here is a time. The Western Union Company have a system is very expensive, as the wives alone of a time. The Western Union Company have a superstanding to Jersey City and from there to Newark about the entire that the contour tape, and are run dissignment in the least of tape, and are run dissignment in the least principle with partialized in from treasure in the second manufacture. The same of a time of the distinct time. It is not expensive. The same of are in the least time in Philadelphia, and intend to the domines for a day of its subset of the domines for a day of its subset. The last is largely commented on that some of the domines are not sufficiently in account with each other telesewhere. y are using it in Philadelphia, and intend to in-trebes the re-corred. Present, President of the Gold and Stock the Company, says that the company will prob-cult to place underground wites most sprise by the object. The change will be made gradually, will occasionarity be very costs. The transferring saids of miles of wire from homeology and swhater ound price will require months of their Digging storets, anying place, and repeating would be very tree. In Mr Prescutts quadratic models are treated wires is daily becoming greater, and the what the cost may be under ground the wires what the cost may be, under ground the wires

The Church of the Future. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mr. Slicer. rationly of the Southern Methodist Church, has followed in the proportion of converts to original states the proportion of converts to original states. wed Mine and gone over to Unitarianism. It remains the seam what the reward or premium will be. There is one great fact woovering all are united, and the their fact woovering all are united, and their fact woovering all are united and their fact woovering all are united and their fact woovering all are united and their fact woovering and the fact of the respective facting fact woods an ansature to entire the constant in discount for an ansature to entire the constant of the fact woods and their fact the constant woods and their fact their fact woods and their fact woods and their fact their fact woods and the section of their fact woods and their fa

That Same Old Spake. From the Ballahanes Foreline.

A genuine sea serpent has been seen opposite tions, counter the warf, not over first varies (ron) the control of the warf, and two intolers it raised were such as its tions under the country for 1 out of the water several times, and mentions of cure. The was a for the country for a war in the country for the count

I abelled Fish. From the Eastern Argus.

The Fish Commissioners of Maine have la-

BUNBEAMS,

-At a public breakfast in Scotland, Joseph Cook said that he intended to visit India to preach th truth to the Hindoos

" The churches burn, but the mortgages are fire-proof," sighs a high religious authority, in be wailing the confusion caused by fire and finance.

-A Cincinnati minister finds fault with his congregation for yawning and falling asiesp over their Bibles, while they manners a lively interest in the daily papers, and stay awake while reading not only eq torials but advertisements.

-Père Hyacinthe, unsuccessful in obtaincharge Hyrchitere, all successful in obtain-ing the money be asked for with which to build a new church, has been collined to heave the quarters be com-pled in the Rue Rochechettart, and has now hired the famous hall of the Rue d'Arras. This was where the most flery revolutionists formerly held their meetings.

From its situation, it will be frequented more naturally by
the poor than by the wealthy. -A good parson, who had the happy faculty

of saying a kind word for everybody in whose behalf one could possibly be said, recently officiated at the timeral of code possely as the meanest and most miser, iy man in the neighborhood. Instead of executing the deceased for his extortionate and niegardly habits, this kindly disposed clergyman simply spoke of him as "the -The Ray, Reuben Jeffery, D. D., has made a great success of his work in Denver. The congre-gations of the Baptist church of which he is paster have

so greatly increased that a new house of worship has be come a necessity. Plans for the new building are now prepared, providing for an audience rooms which will seat 1,500 persons. The church is to cost \$80,000, and to be the most beautiful one in Colorado. -A pleasant feature of the dedication of the Baptist church at Lexington avenue and 111th street the Raptist church at Lexington awants and 11th street is that there is no mortgage on the property. The church is paid for, principally by the large donations of certain wealthy Baptista. The dedication services, which begin to-day, will continue throughout the week, and consist

largely of sermons and addresses by the most eninear Baptist clergymen of this city and Brooklyn. -The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church wanted \$250,000 to enable it com-fortably to prosecute its work. About a year age a committee was appointed to procure this sum, or as much of it as might be had. This committee now reports progress, having secured \$115,000, all of which except \$2,000 has been paid in. The expectation is that the rest of the

sum will be secured without any great delay -The Rev. Dr. Cuyler felicitated himself in his controversy with Dr. Crosby on the alleged (act that Dr. Crosby's Boston fecture on temperance, as pub-lished in the Independent, was "being circulated by brewers." To this the Dalependent replies that it did not state that the lecture was actually circulated by brewers, but only that a brewer sent an order for a considerable number of copies. Dr. Crosby says that in some instances the newspapers have misrepresented him. The controversy waxes more lively every day.

-The Salvation Army people are whacking away steach other as if they never had been friends. Commissioner Raillion writes from St. Louis concerning Bentley and Jones, who second from the organization and are laboring in Baltimore. He intimates that those ex-brethren are of no account as gospel laborers, and that it is to him a borrible idea that they should seek to convert the sinners of Baltimore. Bentley and Jones have abandoned the Salvation Army uniform, and now array themselves in garments of black cut much like those worn by high-church ministers. The army has not made the impression on this perverse and sintal gen eration which the announcements of its generals and

other officers led the public to expect of it -The Waldensian pasters have made a good thing out of the Presbyterian Council, and they are the only ones who have pecuniarily profiled by that sathering. When their delegate made his speech he told the Presbyterians how very small the salaries of the pastors were among the Waldenses. This had its effect on some of the large givers, who at once proceeded to raise a fund for the relief of these poverty-stricken brethren. The sum desired for a permanent fund was \$60,000. Of this amount \$45,000 has already been raised, with the hope that the rest will soon be subscribed. The Waldenses are a farming community inhabiting the rugged valleys of the Vaudois in northern Italy. They are plain and simple in their habits, and handle very little money. The pastors are a humble and self-den ying lot of men, who have been kept very near starvation point, and are now happ

-The English ritualists, the Rev. Messra Enraght and Dale, who were imprisoned for their ritual ism, are quite as ritualistic as ever since their release from prison. Mr. Enraght continues his services, and Mr. Date wants to but cannot, as his health is badly breach and his church is closed. Mr. Enraght's supporters are trying to raise a fund sufficient to warrant the employ-ment of a curate for his parish, which contains 12.00 ersons. Mr. Daie's parish, St. Vedast, is in a part of condon where the residents are very poor, and where ew want to attend his church. He never had large orgregations there except on occasions of special excit nent. He is now out of town seeking rest in retirement with his friends. There is no probability that the suits against either of these clergymen will be pressed, as public opinion in England is so decidedly opposed to fur

her action sgainst them.

— In a Chicago church a deacon's term of office recently expired, and as the man had made himself observations to his fellow church members, they agreed to teach him a lesson by dropping him. So, to his great as declared that either the pastor should leave the pions ex-deacon is now reported as spending much of his time and energy in seeking to entangle the pastor is some unwise talk which will result in his downfall. The dominie is said to be an eloquent preacher, an able scholar, and a difigent paster, but withal to be at times indiscreet in the use of his tongue. Under the circumstances, his people will be very lement with him, should

the amintious ex-descent succeed in ensuring his -Preparations are already being made on a liberal scale for the International Sunday School Convention, which is to meet in Toronto on the 22d or Jans Heretolore these Conventions have been composed o delegates from this country and Canada; but now them vitation is to be extended to all who will come from the other nations of the earth, including the most distant. The presence of some of the foreign b others will add to discussed by the Convention will be "The New Century in Sanday School Work," the motto being, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth note those things which are before." The programme, as provisionally issued, provides for the discussion of as many branches of the Sunday school work that it is difficust to see how they can all be crowded within the three days allotted to the Convention. When it is known, how ever, that the reports from the several States, ferritories, and provinces are to be compressed into a detailed of three minutes each, it will be understood that there is an

to render their cooperation in efforts to secure a resurd very felicities. Two of the freehren were remained onely arrayed against each other in one of the crearest church fights that ever agita ed Brooklym while one o brother in making in exchain e of decominguous. This last named brother has exposed finned; to be criticism of his fellow workers by condemning the siyle of most of the state of the sign the sermons which Brooklyn people hat a to and af saving that it takes 2.000 such sermous as are

agends and without afteropt at a conpresident on president landwist in this less spoke for themselves. To a dis-Separ absolutely uniquality thouse to touch in a moment. Paralysis deflect to bus cure. This, of course, training most fittler opposition of the services and accused him or speaking bloodings; Jewisis law was a terrible of the excilement in regard to Christ, event Gropel narrative are but a low allegamade his ministry as notable. The best rises made was now on the increase. Then note no bounds. They hunted and hearnful and put him out of the way. Nor was their cum Buth they saw him named to the cross on Carvery